

CDC Draft Guidelines-Comments  
December 1, 2009

**Guideline Statement (Lines 1608-1609):**

**“Minimize contamination risk by wiping the access port with an appropriate antiseptic (Chlorhexidine preferred) and accessing the port only with sterile devices”-Cat IA**

I agree with the majority of this guideline statement related to the need for mandatory cleaning of the access port and only using sterile devices to access the port. However, I have identified two areas of concerns related to this statement.

(1.) The statement needs to go further and include “**cleaning** the access port with an appropriate antiseptic **prior to each use** and accessing the port only with sterile devices”.

(2.) Another issue with this statement is the “**preferred use of Chlorhexidine**” as the appropriate antiseptics for cleaning access ports. This guideline statement has been ranked as a Category IA which is defined as “strongly recommended for implementation AND strongly supported by well-designed experimental, clinical or epidemiologic studies”. Three studies were utilized as supportive data for this statement; however, these studies are over 10 years old and do not address the effectiveness of chlorhexidine as an antiseptic to disinfect needleless connectors/ports. We do not have clear, scientific, clinical evidence that chlorhexidine is or should be the preferred agent of choice in cleaning access ports. We do know that needleless connectors/access ports must be cleaned prior to use & when we implement that practice the transmission of microbes can be prevented. Alcohol has been the cleansing agent of choice and a known effective disinfectant. Current evidence does not support the statement “chlorhexidine preferred” and there is no FDA approved or FDA-cleared product to support this practice or implement this recommendation. Therefore, the CDC should consider revising this statement and ranking of this guideline as a Category IA.

In addition, included in the supportive paragraphs for disinfection of needleless connectors is the following statement: “Disinfection of devices with **chlorhexidine/ETOH solutions APPEARS** to be the most effective in decreasing colonization”. The term “appears” suggest inconclusive evidence which does not correlate with the ranking of this guideline and statement to support the use of chlorhexidine as the preferred cleansing agent. Until there is strong, scientific, clinical trials and data to support such a statement, I recommend that the statement “chlorhexidine preferred” be removed from this guideline.

Based on the inconclusive statements and lack of clear, scientific clinical evidence, I strongly recommend a revision of this guideline statement with the following changes:

- ☐ Remove chlorhexidine preferred
- ☐ Add in “prior to each use”
- ☐ Revise ranking as needed
- ☐ “Minimize contamination risk by cleaning the access port prior to each use with an appropriate antiseptic and accessing the port only with sterile devices”

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